

STAT

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REMARKS

FY I - Polygraph testing.  
 AS you can see exempts  
 CIA and permits use of  
 Poly for contractors.

OS REGISTRY  
 05-1273X-87

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OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-78)

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would bar most unionized construction companies from setting up non-union subsidiaries to do the same work as the parent firm.

The practice of setting up dual shops is known as "double-breasting," and is not, in itself, illegal. But construction union officials contend that companies abuse the practice in order to get around union contracts.

The legislation curbs double-breasting by redefining the term "single employer." Under the bill, two or more entities would be treated as a single employer if they met specific criteria laid out in the bill: if they did work within the geographical area covered by a union contract; if they performed the type of work described in the contract; and if they were under, either directly or indirectly, common ownership, management or control. (p. 1333)

**High-Risk Notification.** The House and Senate Labor committees have approved legislation (HR 162 — H Rept 100-194, S 79) setting up a new government health board to monitor occupational risks on the job. The board would identify workers who are exposed to health hazards and then direct employers to notify those workers.

The bills would neither provide nor pay for treatment.

The House bill was approved May 19, the Senate bill July 23.

The legislation is controversial, and floor fights in both chambers are likely. Organized labor and some businesses, including the electronics industry and chemical manufacturers, support the measure, but a coalition of companies and trade associations put together by the National Association of Manufacturers opposes the bills. (p. 1543)

**Polygraph Testing.** Legislation to bar most private companies from using polygraphs, or lie-detector tests, as a condition for getting or keeping a job was approved by the House Education and Labor Committee.

The bill (HR 1212 — H Rept 100-208) exempts federal, state and local government agencies, as well as persons doing counterintelligence work. The measure specifically allows lie-detector tests for people who may be under contract for work with the CIA, National Security Agency, FBI, Department of Defense or Department of Energy. (p. 837)

**Minimum Wage.** Neither the

House nor the Senate has taken action on legislation to increase the minimum hourly wage from its current level of \$3.35 to \$4.65 over three years.

However, the Labor committees in both chambers have held hearings on the bills (S 837, HR 1834), and the legislation could start to move in the fall.

The measures are strongly supported by organized labor, but the business community, with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in the lead, opposes any increase. Business spokesmen contend that raising the minimum wage will cost jobs because employers will cut back on entry-level or low-paying positions rather than increase the wages. They also argue that an increase will hurt companies' efforts to be competitive in world markets. (p. 403)

**Pensions.** Legislation to protect the pensions of some 30 million workers has been approved by the House Education and Labor and Ways and Means committees.

Both panels' legislation is very similar, and the goals are identical: to strengthen financially unstable pension plans by tightening funding standards; to give the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC), the federal agency that insures pension plans, sounder financial footing; and to encourage companies with excess funds in their plans to keep the plans going rather than terminate them to get at the surplus cash.

Both committees raise the annual premium an employer must pay the PBGC for each covered employee. The Labor panel boosts the premium from the current \$8.50 per employee to \$19, plus a charge of \$200 per employee if a defined benefit plan — which guarantees a retiree a specific benefit — is terminated after July 1, 1987. After three years, the termination charge would be recalculated as a percentage of the PBGC deficit.

The Ways and Means proposal increases the premium to \$14 with an additional variable charge for pension plans that currently do not contain sufficient funds to meet their obligations.

The pension changes both committees make will be rolled into a wide-ranging budget "reconciliation" bill scheduled to move in the House this fall. The two panels may not iron out their differences until a conference with the Senate. (p. 1723)

## Law/Judiciary

**Sessions, Bork Nominations.** The Senate Judiciary Committee will take up two important nominations following its August recess. On Sept. 9, the panel will begin hearings on the nomination of U.S. District Judge William S. Sessions of San Antonio to be the new head of the FBI.

Sessions, 57, would replace William H. Webster, who was confirmed by the Senate May 19 as director of



The House and Senate Labor committees have approved legislation that would require identification and notification of workers exposed to hazardous substances.